on motor vehicles. Motor vehicles are run on commercial lines and the owners must regulate their fares in accordance with what it costs them and in accordance with what profits them. That is not a matter in which the Government can or should interfere.

MEMBER : What about the appointment of a revenue special officer?

DEWAN : I will have that closely associated with re-settlement upon which you also touched. The question of re-survey and re-settlement will be taken up for examination and careful consideration shortly.

97. Needs of the Padmanabhapuram Municipality.

MR. P. V. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram*) represented that Padmanabhapuram was once the capital of the State and was formerly the seat of several important public offices. One by one, the offices have been removed elsewhere; and the abolition of the Padmanabhapuram Division removed the Peishkar's headquarters also from there. The Taluk Cutcherry, the Sanketam Cutcherry and the Sub-registrar's office at least should be transferred to Padmanabhapuram. If the Additional Munsiff's court at Tuckalai was removed to the fort, some saving in rent could be effected. As a result of representations made at the nineteenth session, the Taluk and Sanketam Cutcherries were sanctioned to be housed in the fort in the extensive (old) Division Cutcherry buildings. But though an estimate for the construction of a strong room for the treasury had also been sanctioned, nothing had yet been done.

The congested areas of Kumarakoil, Keralapuram and Tiruvitankod should also be included within the Padmanabhapuram Municipal limits in the interests of public health. Huge crowds resorted to the former place every Friday, and the temple premises and tank were not kept in a sanitary condition. Tiruvitankod, a busy commercial and manufacturing centre, did not possess adequate sanitary arrangements.

The *poramboke* lands in the town should be transferred to the Municipality for being used to the best advantage of the public. The present arrangement led to delays and the transfer would enable the Municipality to enhance its revenue by the lease of the avenue trees, etc.

The roads, *satrams*, and T. B.'s should be handed over to the Council together with the full allotment for their maintenance. Better sanitary arrangements could then be made. If the present grant for their maintenance was without limit of time given to the municipality, the sanitary condition of the roads could also be improved, the municipality meeting the necessary excess expenditure.

The financial condition of the Municipality was unsatisfactory, the receipts being inadequate to meet the increasing expenditure. The annual closing balance of the Municipality would indicate the gloomy condition of its finances.

DEWANS' REPLY: Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, yow know the question of the extension of the town of Padmanabhapuram, or rather the inclusion, within the Municipal limits of Padmanabhapuram, of Tiruvitankod, Kumarakoil and Keralapuram, has been considered in the past by the Government. The local officers hold that Tiruvitankod which is separated from Padmanabhapuram by some paddy fields is a village occupied mainly by poor Mahomedans who do not desire to come within the town of Padmanabhapuram and under the control of the Municipality. Similarly, Kumarakoil and Keralapuram are at some little distance away from the Municipality, and it is difficult to see what useful purpose will be served by bringing them within the Municipal area. It will only increase the burden and responsibility of the Municipality. Nevertheless, since you have raised the point, it will again be subjected to careful examination.

2. Then you have proposed the shifting of certain public offices to Padmanabhapuram. I am afraid it is not possible for the Government to comply with your request there. However strong your sentiment may be to restore the departed glories of Padmanabhapuram, offices will have to remain where the work lies; where the need lies and not where historical associations would suggest or local patriotism dictates.

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3. Then you come to the question of the transfer of *porambokes* within the Municipal limits to the Municipality. This subject was represented on a former occasion ; the President then pointed out that the transfer of these lands *en bloc* with absolute powers of disposal to the Municipality was, to use his own words, "too large a proposition". Mr. Raghaviah said : "But Government would be prepared to consider any concrete proposals as regards individual sites. You may come up to Government and say 'here is a plot of waste land. We are confident of selling it to the best advantage ; we will realise a larger amount than Government ; we will take one-half or three-fourths of the money realised and give the balance to Government.' Government would be very glad to consider such a proposal and comply with such a request as far as possible." I cannot but share his views in the matter.

4. Then, the suggestion to transfer *satrams* and T. B.'s to the Municipality is now made for the first time. I may assure you that it will be taken up for consideration.

MEMBER : In the last session, the Government said in reply to Mr. Ramaswami, Member, Municipal Council, Nagercoil, that they had no objection in handing over the *satram* to the Municipality.

DEWAN : But there is the T. B. as well. I find that the question of transfer of *satrams* within municipal limits to municipalities is under consideration as a general question relating to several municipalities. Your representations will be borne in mind when that general question is being decided.

Then you deal with the question of increasing the Government grant to the Padmanabhapuram Municipality. As you are aware, the maximum grant for a minor municipality is Rs. 500; and your municipality is already getting that maximum and so we have to leave it at that.

98. Needs of the Colachel Town.

MR. M. MUHAMMAD KHAN (*Member, Municipal Council, Colachel*) said that the alignment of the proposed railway from Trivandrum to Nargercoil through the centre of Colachel town was a source of hardship to the people of Colachel. In the first place, the line chosen was circuitous touching all the wards of the town and dividing the second and third wards into two. Secondly, the people of the town were very poor having small cocoanut gardens of twenty-five to thirty cents in extent. The proposed railway line passed through many of these little holdings causing considerable harm to the plantations. Thirdly, the peculiar feature of Colachel town was that the wards were occupied each by a separate community. The proposed railway line would disturb this arrangement which had so long been the cause of harmony between the several communities. The railway should for these reasons be aligned along the eastern end of the town which was uninhabited and uncultivated.

At the time of Dewan Rajah Sir T. Madhava Rao, the A. V. M. canal was constructed for the purpose of carrying trade from Colachel, Tengapattanam and the neighbouring villages. But this canal was auctioned away to the people during the subsequent period, with the result that it took away the means of communication between the two places. There was also no road along the coast. There were ten fishing villages along the coast between Colachel and Tengapattanam and about twelve villages engaged in copra, coir, and other industries. For want of a road, the trade in these villages could not develop and the people did not get the full value of their labour. A road from Colachel to Tengapattanam along the beach was therefore urgently required.

Nearly twenty-two *pakuthies* fell within the jurisdiction of the Padmanabhapuram Munsiffs' courts, and of these, at least eleven were far away from Padmanabhapuram and the parties had to travel six to fifteen miles to reach Padmanabhapuram. If one of the Munsiffs' courts at Padmanabhapuram could be transferred to Colachel, it would be a great convenience to the people.

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